make them companions of the household love of the humblest mechanic, and the friends of their fireside. His American brethren demanded from the people of this country monuments for every thing great and good, for here were their antiquities, their choicest recollections, and the homes of their forefathers. Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Bacon were theirs no less than ours. He was glad that the site chosen for the proposed monument was the west front,—the front nearest America.

Mr. Milman seconded the resolution ably, spoke of the power and importance of the press, and the debt due to Caxton.

With respect to the most suitable form of commemoration, said the rev. gentleman, it was desirable that public monuments should combine that which was ornamental with that which was also to a certain degree useful, and which suggested the object and meaning of the monument. The first thing that suggested itself was, that a statue should be erected to any distinguished individual. If it should appear that there was extant any authentic likeness of Caxton—upon which point some doubt existed—that might be engrafted upon any design commemorative rather of the event of the introduction of printing than of any individual. The monument, in his opinion, should mainly commemorate the great epoch of the introduction of printing into this country. If the liberality of the public should consider this as a great national work, as it must be considered, then he thought it right not merely to instal William Caxton in the honoured roll of the great benefactors of his country, but to commemorate the introduction of printing by some monument illustrative of that event. He had suggested a fountain as one appropriate emblem; but if the suggestion were adopted, he took the liberty with the noble chairman to say, that he hoped it would be very unlike any fountain now in existence in this metropolis. He would remind those who had travelled in Italy of the wonderful combination of fountains with beautiful architecture in that country, and although similar fountains might not be suited to the situation indicated for the present monument, yet there were fountains of the medieval age which dwelt strongly upon his memory, such as those of Nuremberg and Basle. If a fountain were erected in that spirit upon the site proposed by the present resolution, it would be the highest ornament to that part of the metropolis, which was becoming, and might become, what Dr. Johnson said of Charing-cross,—"The great thoroughfare of mankind." The emblem conveyed by a fountain could not be misunderstood by the least educated, but if they added to that a light which should be spread abroad at night, shedding lustre upon all the buildings around it, the type would be complete, and would convey to the mind, without effort or violence, its real and proper signification. If the subscriptions should surpass what was necessary to complete the work on a proper scale of magnificence—for the whole of the influential portion of the public press, not only in the metropolis but in the provinces, were in favour of the contemplated memorial—if this great work were supported by all the educated and intelligent portions of the community, the committee might direct to further purposes, either of charity or education, whatever supplies might be collected.

It was suggested, that to fix the exact site then, before the amount subscribed was known, might trammel the committee, and accordingly the resolution was made to read thus:—

"That the proper site of any work of art, would be in the *neighbourhood* of Westminster Abbey."

A general committee was then appointed, to promote the object, and to decide the character of the memorial. And the following gentlemen were appointed a sub-committee, to determine the composition of any work of art, namely, three artists, Mr. Barry, R.A., Mr. Etty, R.A., and Sir R. Westmacott, R.A., with the proposer Mr. Milman, and the dean, Dr. Buckland.

We trust that the questions of site and the nature of the monument will receive the most careful consideration. We hope to see a fine work of art produced, of far greater importance than was shadowed out by Mr. Milman, in his letter to Lord Morpeth. And we hope, notwithstanding a suggestion to the contrary by Mr. Milman, that none of the money subscribed will be appropriated to any other purpose than the monument, so that it may be worthy of its purpose and of the country.

The constitution of the sub-committee bids us hope, that in the event of a competition, the arrangements will be more satisfactory than is usually the case. It will be our duty, nevertheless, to look on.

THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE DWELLINGS OF DIFFERENT CLASSES.

THE NEW MODEL LODGING-HOUSE IN ST. GILES'S.

We have endeavoured on many previous occasions, to contribute to a full estimate of the difficulties and obstacles, which oppress all classes of society, from the want of consideration for the required objects in the arrangement and construction of residences. It has been our aim to shew, that evils parallel with those found to affect the poor, from this erroneous system in the planning of their dwellings, are the occasion of constant trouble and difficulty to all, or at least to those who reside in the metropolis, and the letters of correspondents have borne testimony to the truth of our statements. If the improvement of the Health of Towns be of such immense importance, that no vested interest and no question of party politics should be allowed to delay an instant the active operation of measures of remedy, we are compelled to assign a position even higher to a subject, still more immediately affecting the social and moral condition of the people. We believe we have shewn* that the only system adopted in the arrangement of residences in London, is the very worst that could be devised for the comfort of a vast proportion of its inhabitants; that houses are continually being erected, adapted always only for one tenancy, which will have to accommodate, perhaps, twenty or thirty tenants; and there can be no difficulty, with all the advantages of economy resulting from combination, whether it be merely with a common structure, a common staircase, or a common establishment, in procuring all the comforts of privacy in a home, along with every other advantage, in which all who at present let or take lodgings, are so painfully deficient. We can see no reason why, instead of one system in house-building and provision for residences, fifty different plans should not be devised, both for the arrangement of dwellings, and for the management of such as may have to receive an associated community, and so that every individual could readily provide himself with the description of tenement, adapted to his business and his domestic wants.

But if the subject be important as concerns the middle classes of society, its importance becomes still more evident, as we descend the social scale, till we discover a state of abject destitution, of misery and of crime, of which, did it meet the daylight, society would stand appalled, and for which, if the accounts descend, future ages will mistrust the enlightenment of the 19th century. Were we the expectant contemplator of an Utopia, in which these evils should not exist, we might look for no result from our arguments; but there are many who know well, what we only wish to have known by all, that statements such as have been made, have here received no false colouring, whether as facts, or as regards their influence upon society. The accident of poverty indeed involves in common destruction alike the virtuous and the vicious, and the circumstance cannot to any be so apparent, as to those who are familiar with the arrangement of dwellings. The establishment of baths and washhouses in every quarter of London, so tardily proceeded with, of playgrounds for children, and public places of recreation, of infant-schools, libraries, and gymnasia, are but small instalments of that attention to the comfort of the poor, which they have a right to demand, but which attention will lack its most important field unless it takes cognizance of the *chief* means for giving the comfort of a home, or that temporary shelter which supplies its place. An important duty, therefore, in the progress of social amelioration, is that of the architect.

When, some years back, the "Metropolitan Association for Improving the Dwellings of the Industrious Classes" issued a prospectus and plans, we were amongst those who looked to the speedy effects of its operations with the most pleasurable anticipations. Grievously have, hitherto, those hopes been deferred. The association has but lately commenced active operations in St. Pancras, where we may shortly have an opportunity of seeing what it contemplates. Another society, however, that "for the Improvement of the Condition of the Labouring Classes," has, under some disadvantages, manifested rather more energy; and though we felt it our duty to comment upon the judgment displayed in several particulars, it has our sincere wishes for the success of endeavours in which we are so much inclined to sympathise. The projectors could not have devoted themselves to a more important department of their objects, than to that of dwellings, and to none of those so needing improvement, as the class called "lodging-houses."

Some of our readers may scarcely know what a "lodging-house," *par excellence*—if we do not invert the phrase—is. Such persons we would refer to a penny pamphlet, entitled "The Lodging-houses of London—extracted from the 'London City Mission Magazine' of August, 1845; sold at the office, 20 Red-lion-square:" or would suggest to them merely a walk through the Mint, in Southwark, or through such streets as Charles, King, and Parker-streets, Drury-lane. A celebrated traveller, Mr. Kohl, has described the state of misery and destitution in Ireland as exceeding all he had ever witnessed throughout his extensive travels; but had he been conducted through some of the houses in the localities of which we speak, he would have found, under the gloss of civilization, and within sight of the abodes of the wealthy, or of the legislature, filth, destitution, and vice, below which the most abject spot in any corner of Europe could not descend.—But these are matters with which many are now quite as familiar as ourselves, and all, therefore, that we have to do, is to urge the active removal of such evils, by the erection of suitable places, with purposes similar to that now erecting in George-street, St. Giles's, by the society in question. The object of this building briefly is, to provide a portion of the numerous class who are without any settled abode, for the ordinary rate of 3d. or 4d. a night, with a bed, and other comfortable and decent accommodation, and with the means of cooking and washing; and when we consider that nearly all the places to which the poor now resort, are of the most miserable description, and loathsome to all whose feelings misery or vice has not blunted, we cannot but feel the deepest interest in the success of the society's endeavour, and a wish that every detail of this model establishment should be capable of being imitated.

The building, which we have examined in many stages of its progress, is now nearly completed, and occupies a site adjoining the French Protestant Church in Bloomsbury-street. The front, however, is in George-street, and the building has five stories and a basement. It is of plain brick and cement, with a cornice at the top, and a cornice and trusses to the doorway. The basement contains the washing and kitchen departments, one at each end of the building, in which the staircase occupies the centre. On the ground-floor, the common room occupies the southern half, and north of the entrance are the office, the residence of the steward, or keeper, and we believe there are also to be baths. The two rooms on each floor above will be used as dormitories, and there will be other conveniences. The ground occupied is thus a parallelogram, of which the staircase and entrance are in the centre, and in which there is an area at the back for light. Some difficulty was found in the arrangement of the plan, from the necessity of having a good staircase; the referees also required an enlargement of the area subsequent to the first prepar-

* Vide Vol. IV.—"Matter for the attention of the legislature," and "Suggestions for the improvement of residences," &c. &c.

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